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**For Immediate Release**

**Carmel Bar Cited on Multiple Charges, 16 Minors Arrested**

**CARMEL, Ind. (May 14)** – Indiana State Excise Police cited Double Apple Lounge in Carmel on multiple charges and arrested 16 minors inside Saturday night.

Double Apple Lounge, 4004 W. 96th Street, was preliminarily charged with 16 counts of allowing a minor to loiter, five counts of sale of alcohol to a minor and one count each of hindering enforcement, employment of minors and failing to maintain employee records. The bar was also cited for allowing minors to loiter on Jan. 22, when police found ten minors, four of whom had been drinking alcohol, inside the bar.

A total of 16 minors, aged 15 to 20 years old, were cited for minor in tavern, a misdemeanor. Eight people – including three juveniles less than 18 years of age – were also charged with illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages. Five of those said they drank alcohol in Double Apple Lounge.

The hindering enforcement charge stems from three girls who were found in the kitchen, pretending to be cooks. The girls, aged 15, 19 and 20, were allegedly told by the bar manager to run into the kitchen, put on aprons and pretend to be cooks. They were found trying to cook something on a cold grill. They were all charged with minor in tavern. One tested .15% BAC and another .13% BAC.

"It is the responsibility of the permit location to ensure that minors are not served alcohol as well as not allowing them to enter," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "Moreover, the state excise police will exercise a zero tolerance policy regarding minors loitering in alcoholic beverage establishments. Owners and servers who choose to forego their responsibility to identify underage persons and remove them from these establishments will be held accountable for their actions or lack thereof."

The Carmel Police Department assisted with this investigation.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes.

*All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*